

rocket attacks launched from Gaza into Israel. Many innocent persons, both Israeli and Palestinian, have been killed or injured in the violence. In addition to death and injury, the ongoing violence has destroyed property, instilled fear, and disrupted the lives of innocent civilians on both sides of the conflict.

I appreciate that the resolution helps document the toll that rocket attacks have exacted on Israeli civilians. But I very much regret that the resolution misses an important opportunity to acknowledge the complexity of problems and issues which give rise to the conflict. And I am particularly troubled that the resolution fails to recognize the depth and breadth of human suffering, misery, and death that has been visited upon the people of Gaza.

Mr. Speaker, the humanitarian situation in Gaza has only worsened since the armed takeover by Hamas in June 2007. Basic items such as baby milk, wheat grain, vegetable oil, and dairy products are in short supply. Additionally, the tightening of restrictions on the movement of goods and people by the Israeli government is causing serious hardship according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA.

The OCHA has found that these restrictions have had the effect of preventing the people of Gaza from receiving desperately needed healthcare treatments like chemotherapy and radiation therapy for cancer patients, pediatric surgery, and neurosurgery. The restrictions on the movement of goods make it difficult for healthcare providers to obtain new diagnostic medical equipment or the parts to service existing equipment that has fallen into disrepair. To make matters worse, it appears that those Palestinians who want to leave Gaza to pursue treatment in Israel or abroad are finding it difficult to do so.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that humanitarian assistance is available and accessible to the people of Gaza is one of the most important steps that can be taken to ensure that the peace process succeeds and is not derailed by continued violence. It is for this reason that I recently wrote to Secretary of State Rice urging her to do all she can to make certain that vital humanitarian goods and services are successfully delivered in Gaza. I believe the moral force of the resolution would have been enhanced had it called for similar action.

Finally, this resolution cites the roles of Iran, Syria, and Egypt in enabling these attacks. I want to be clear that nothing recited in the resolution would justify a preemptive military response against these countries nor should it be used as grounds to build a case for such an action.

Mr. Speaker, the rocket attacks against Israel condemned by this resolution have caused great suffering to the victims. Acknowledging that suffering in a congressional resolution is a fitting and proper thing to do. But at the end of the day, the peace and justice we all seek will not come from passing a resolution in Congress. Rather, a just and lasting peace will come from the parties resolving in their hearts and minds to rededicate themselves to the active engagement in good faith negotiation to bring the two-state solution into being. I call upon the Administration to redouble its efforts in discharging its indispensable role as honest broker in the peace process.

HONORING DR. FREDERICK "SKIP" BERRIEN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for over three decades, Dr. Frederick "Skip" Berrien has been a prominent figure in Connecticut's medical, academic, and child welfare communities. This month, he will retire as the director for the Child Abuse/Children's Advocacy Center at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. I rise today to recognize and celebrate his illustrious career and his contributions to our friends and neighbors in Connecticut.

Between 1980 and 1987, Dr. Berrien served as the director of pediatrics and acting medical director in general pediatrics at the UConn/Mount Sinai Health Center. Following his tenure at the UConn/Mount Sinai Health Center, Dr. Berrien assumed an associate director position for pediatric ambulatory services at Saint Francis Hospital. He subsequently served as director of pediatric ambulatory services, clinical director for sickle cell services, co-director of the Siberian American Children's Health Program, and director of child abuse services/Children's Advocacy Center at St. Francis. Beginning in 2001, Dr. Berrien joined the Connecticut Children's Medical Center as a consultant for the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Program.

While the size and scope of Skip's medical career is clear, his contributions to the academic and social services community have also been substantial. From 1977 to 1979, Dr. Berrien was a clinical instructor at Boston University and from 1980 until present, an associate professor of clinical pediatrics at UConn School of Medicine. His original research ranges from the state of Russian pediatric health care to pediatric sickle cell pain management. His work in Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union, established new, enduring partnerships with Russian doctors that has benefited both countries.

Dr. Berrien has added to his role of providing and teaching pediatric care, to serving as a forceful advocate for issues such as prevention of child abuse and neglect. In the early 1990's, he was instrumental with developing the Child Abuse/Children's Advocacy Center at St. Francis Hospital. At the time there was no program at all to deal with this critical unmet need in central Connecticut. Today as Dr. Berrien leaves, the center is one of the most respected such programs in the country and has brought both compassion and justice to this challenging area of law and medicine. In addition, Skip remains an active participant of such organizations as the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Hartford Multidisciplinary Intervention Child Abuse Team.

Medical professionals serve an invaluable role in our society. They are protectors of public health, and purveyors of hope and social justice. Throughout his career, Dr. Berrien has exemplified each of these roles. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents with recognizing his contributions and offering our warmest wishes for his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2008 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my Virginia colleagues, FRANK WOLF and JAMES MORAN, to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Herndon Police Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that can be awarded to a public safety officer: the Life Saving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that we enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2008 Valor Awards in the Herndon Police Department. Receiving the Certificate of Valor: Sergeant Stephen Thompson, Senior Police Officer James J. Passmore, Officer Adil Afab, and Officer Michael R. Croson.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Herndon Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 106 on H.R. 2857, GIVE Act, the Inslee Amendment, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING SCOTTS HILL LIONS CLUB

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Scotts Hill Lions Club as they celebrate their 60th anniversary.

The Scotts Hill Lions Club was chartered on March 30, 1948, due to the hard work and vision of Scott Hill's Mayor Erin Holland and Adamsville Lions' Club member Farris Stafford. As a chartered member, the Scotts Hill Lions Club became part of Lions Club International, which is the world's largest service club organization with more than 46,000 clubs in over 190 countries and approximately 1.4 million members.

Over the course of the last 60 years, the Scotts Hill Lions Club members have volunteered their time, energy, and resources to